

work. This cross platform networking has proven invaluable in many scenarios.

TTRAG is also active in editorial contributions to Guild publications. Much of the content of the Guild quarterly *Timber Framing* is articles on preservation and historical topics. This fact is also represented in the Guild's design workbook which accents the fact that most of today's timber frame technology is based on its historical application. Through the surveys and studies of its members, historians, preservation artisans, state and federal institutions, TTRAG is beginning to network the past, present, and future of timber frame building systems.

Although much knowledge has been lost that relates to the use of heavy timber construction and timber frame joinery systems, the formation of the TFGNA and TTRAG has opened the door to connecting those who are actively engaged in the work of preserving timber frame buildings and preserving the trade of building them itself, with those who would have an interest in seeing them pre-

served. As public awareness and the interests of private and public agencies grow, so will the demand for greater understanding of the preservation technologies on which the existence of our historic timber frame structures depend. It is the mandate of these organizations to develop the programs and networks that will allow access to all information that may benefit such a cause. By expanding the knowledge that is available and improving the access to that knowledge, the prospect of preserving our magnificent architectural heritage will be greatly improved. It is to this effort we should recommit our energies.

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Photos by the author.

Robert Cagnetta

The Diversity of Application

The International Preservation Trades Workshop (IPTW) responds to the growing interest and demand for proper historic preservation skills training. Historic preservation has increasingly become more isolated as a trade, where preservation consultants and technicians are performing projects of growing significance and scope. The preservation of our nation's treasured heritage needs refined professionals, and our cities and towns require a more sensitive, cost effective approach in maintaining our built environment. The Institute for Preservation Training (IPT), a co-sponsor of IPTW, seeks to provide a new generation of historic preservation services, through an integration of vocational training, education, and contracting. IPT provides a program of training and heritage education, to people of a variety skill levels, who become active in all aspects of our projects. The success of the program relies on maintaining proper evaluation and placement of our participants, enabling a comprehensive, complete work exposure, as well as pro-

viding our customers a quality cost-effective work product. Expansion of the demand for higher historic preservation services will provide the means toward maintaining successful training and placement of qualified professionals in the field.

As the American built environment continues to be restored, the demand for cost-effective restoration methods will become more prevalent. Despite this growth of building re-use and preservation, the development of professional training has not yet fully responded. Projects are being completed with unqualified professionals, where a building's resources are mis-used and wasted, materials are being improperly applied and buildings are being grossly under-used. Yet the process may be as simple as a more disciplined approach—saving money, labor, materials, and most importantly, paying tribute to a building's historical design and use. The trends for increased preservation services are most apparent in the increasing requests for proposals requiring the contracting professionals to be versed in historic building restoration, although there is no real standard in which they are qualified. Parallel to the need for proper building preservation and qualified professionals, there is a growing necessity for the downsizing of federally-subsidized assistance job training programs. The growing demand for real job skills training for people with disabilities and barriers to employment has created an opportunity for a unique work force to participate in building preservation. The combined demand for greater professionalism in the field of

historic preservation and vocational training led to the development of IPT, a program where historic preservation can be used as a vehicle for providing education and training, while simultaneously producing fee-for-service contracting.

In July 1994, John P. Canham began to design a program which could incorporate people with disabilities into the field of historic preservation. By February of the following year, Vocational Resources, Inc. (now Goodwill Industries of Rhode Island), a 134-year-old vocational training agency, adopted the program as an extension to its current services. At Goodwill Industries of Rhode Island, the mission is to "provide services which expand vocational and economic opportunities for people with disabilities and related challenges in order to enhance their capacity for living, increased quality of life, and work." The program concept was formed to expand the variety of services offered to their "clients," using contract services to maintain the program, in an attempt to minimize the program's dependency on private or public funding. Maturing strategic business alliances and expanding social service programs allowed IPT to serve a greater population of people with disabilities and barriers to employment, while complementing the program's mission to serve historic preservation in general as a method for training and education.

IPT has been successful in several arenas. From community revitalization and rehabilitation, to the restoration of our national historic sites, IPT has provided real work experiences to people with disabilities and barriers to employment, and has begun the first registered apprenticeship training program recognized by the Department of Labor. IPT's program uses the concepts of vocational training through construction, with minimal public assistance or subsidies. We exist on the premise that our program can maintain a solid customer base which has the need for building restoration and rehabilitation, while providing our participants the training and education necessary for long-term, gainful employment.

The work adjustment program for participants provides training and education in several facets. Each of our projects is customized to the special needs of our participants. Our program can evaluate, place, and monitor our participants throughout the process of work exposure. During placement, the participants, consisting of people with disabilities and barriers to employment, use historic preservation as the means for their work training. For these participants, historic preservation provides the context in which they can learn the skills to gain self confidence, work experience, and socio-economic independence. The length of participation depends on their needs in vocational training. Some may require only a work-exposure

experience, where they may only seek to gain the basic skills in work adjustment. Others may wish to learn the basic skills of carpentry and property maintenance, where they would then seek higher entry level positions, completing basic skills competencies which can be applied to new work opportunities. In both instances, the acquired skills allow participants to learn certain aspects of building rehabilitation, from framing to drywall, to finish carpentry, to painting. Historic preservation becomes not only practical, but a useful tool for a participant in gaining a greater understanding of building construction and maintenance.

The program concept of using this unique workforce has been implemented in several projects in Providence, Rhode Island. In Olneyville, a developing, low income, culturally diverse historic community within Providence, IPT has worked in cooperation with local and city organizations to assist in the rehabilitation of several community homes within the district. The "Olneyville Initiative" was established with three main objectives: education, training, and developing community partnerships. For education, the restoration of historic buildings provides a unique focal point around which to develop educational programs in local history, architecture, and culture. The program, therefore, seeks to provide information and education to community residents on the history of these buildings and the people and society that built them. For training, skills related to the planning of the project, implementation, and construction can be taught through the execution of each project. The quintessential motive of the program is creating partnerships with city, local, and grass roots organizations. In order to have greater communication and access to the neighborhoods, IPT works in conjunction with local organizations to facilitate an ongoing dialogue and partnerships to address a wide range of issues relating to community revitalization. Our activities in Providence provided us the opportunity to participate in the first YouthBuild program for the city where local at-risk youth from the ages of 17-24 will gain the necessary education and work experiences toward socio-economic independence.

Those participants seeking a greater level of skills training enroll in the apprenticeship training program with IPT. The apprenticeship program, labeled "Carpenter (Preservation)," requires 8,000 hours (4 years) of work experience and 576 hours of instruction of related subjects. The apprenticeship program culminated from the growing necessity for an established work and education training program in historic preservation. The apprenticeship program was developed in cooperation and was registered with the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, Employment and Training



IPT's training participants receive shingling instruction from Dave Gengo, Preservation Specialist, in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

Administration, US Department of Labor, in February of 1995. The certification of the apprenticeship program by the Department of Labor enables historic preservation to be recognized as a legitimate trade, beginning a movement toward isolated professionalism. The North Atlantic Region of the National Park Service also participated in the development of the apprenticeship program, where the results of the apprenticeship have led to a mutually-beneficial program enabling the exchange of training and preservation services

through the execution of National Park Service historic preservation projects.

Our first project with the National Park Service was at Weir Farm National Historic Site in Wilton, Connecticut. The 15-month restoration of an 18th-century timber frame barn complex and studio spaces was the first use of the apprenticeship program. The project consisted of instruction on the proper methodologies and techniques required in the execution of the scope, including timber frame, shingling, and vertical siding manufacturing, assembly and repair, sash and fenestration restoration, and documentation. Also, the activities provided rudimentary classroom instruction, giving a historic context to the site, the restoration methodology, as well as reviews on historic preservation law, federal, state, local, and private organizations and their respective roles, stylistic and construction techniques. The apprenticeship provided the necessary background toward making the participants more conscious in their role within preserving the built environment, while their skills were refined during the project's execution.

Our second and most current project with the National Park Service is in Harpers Ferry National Historic Park in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. With a year in between the projects, the program has matured, enabling a greater exposure of training and education. The staff consists of a second-year apprentice, an intern from Roger Williams University's Historic Preservation Program, and four craftspeople participating in the 15-week project. A combination of increased research resources and available professionals

enables the trainees to have a greater sense of historical context, proper restoration methodologies, and applications. They have received diverse work experiences and training from several NPS staff, industry professionals, and IPT staff, which encompass the entire scope of the project. Real work experience and education has become essential criteria toward gaining a comprehensive apprenticeship and internship in the field of historic preservation, preparing the future professionals who will participate in the restoration of our cultural and built environment.

IPT's program exists on two very simple concepts: our program will be used by the demand for quality historic preservation services; and training can be proven to be cost effective, while enabling participants to learn the skills of a trade. IPT has been involved in a variety of projects, from community rehabilitation, to the conservation of significant historic homes, to the interpretive reconstruction and restoration of national historic sites. Yet, not all participants are appropriate for every project; each must be properly evaluated, placed and monitored, to ensure the most effective work exposure for the participant, as well as to maintain quality on the site. Successful placement of the participants is based on their evaluated skill level, matching the required skill levels of the project with the skills and interests of the individual. Once placed, a participant's training and education becomes an integral component of the project, where the participants are exposed to the entire project, from proposal to completion, and learn each step toward completion. They can also learn how to interpret a building and its environment, think critically and understand the nuances of building construction and conservation. IPT's program addresses the needs of our changing culture, utilizing historic preservation as a vehicle for education and training. From short-term work exposures to apprenticeship training, participants gain a greater understanding of the development and use of our diverse cultural and built environments. The International Preservation Trades Workshop provides a cardinal forum in designing the criteria in which historic preservation shall carry the past into our future.

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Photo by the author.